

Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas is yet another example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves.

Localism is not served when a corporate headquarters decides to provide one side in local elections a louder voice than others. During election season, local audiences should be offered genuine debate -- not disingenuous offers to "purchase" an equal amount of response time.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast strong doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest. Their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Further, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard.

Why am I giving (not necessarily by choice) my money to these guys? They don't want to do what they're obligated to do and they just make tons of money with no sense of integrity or service to the public. The public is just a cash cow to them; a bunch of zombies for them to take advantage of as much as they can. Something needs to change. This, in plain and simple terms, is just wrong.

Thank you.